

and university resources to help deal with national problems like poverty and community development.

S. 570 allows veterinary students studying abroad in nonprofit public veterinary schools to participate in the Higher Education Act's Federal Family Education Loan Program. We must maintain the purpose of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and provide financial resources to those students who qualify whether they are at home or abroad.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 570.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHNNY CASH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 282) honoring the life of Johnny Cash, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 282

Whereas Johnny Cash was one of the most influential and recognized voices of American music throughout the world, whose influence spanned generations and musical genres;

Whereas Johnny Cash was born on February 26, 1932, in Kingsland, Arkansas, and moved with his family at the age of 3 to Dyess, Arkansas, where the family farmed 20 acres of cotton and other seasonal crops;

Whereas those early years in the life of Johnny Cash inspired songs such as "Look at Them Beans" and "Five Feet High and Rising";

Whereas Johnny Cash eventually released more than 70 albums of original material in his lifetime, beginning with his first recording in 1955 with the Tennessee Two;

Whereas Johnny Cash was a devoted husband to June Carter Cash, a father of 5 children, and a grandfather;

Whereas Johnny Cash received extensive recognition for his contributions to the musical heritage of the Nation, including membership in the Grand Ole Opry; induction into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and his receipt of numerous awards, including Kennedy Center Honors, 11 Grammy Awards, and the 2001 National Medal of Arts;

Whereas Johnny Cash embodied the creativity, innovation, and social conscience that define American music;

Whereas Johnny Cash was a vocal champion of the downtrodden, the working man, and Native Americans; and

Whereas the Nation has lost one of its most prolific and influential musicians with the death of Johnny Cash on September 12, 2003, in Nashville, Tennessee: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) honors the life and accomplishments of Johnny Cash;

(2) recognizes and honors Johnny Cash for his invaluable contributions to the Nation, Tennessee, and our musical heritage; and

(3) extends condolences to the Cash family on the death of a remarkable man.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 282.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 282, offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER). House Concurrent Resolution 282 honors the life and musical legacy of Johnny Cash, a man who was a poet, a scholar, and a world famous music icon, as well as a loving husband and father.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) for introducing this important legislation. I would also like to thank Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER for introducing the Senate version, which was passed by that body on September 18, 2003.

It was no wonder that September 12 was a dark and dreary day in Nashville. It was the day we lost the Man in Black. Johnny Cash died early that morning at Baptist Hospital in Nashville from diabetes complications. He was an outlaw, he was a songwriter, he was a born-again Christian; and for 5 decades Johnny Cash entertained millions, millions of people around the world with songs of love and death and good times and bad. All of his career, Johnny Cash wrote songs for the common man. From his upbringing in rural northeastern Arkansas to the height of his stardom in the 1960s, Johnny Cash always connected with the common man.

Johnny's career began in Memphis alongside Elvis Presley. There, with legendary recording great Sam Phillips of Sun Records, he recorded "Cry! Cry! Cry!" and that put him on the map. By 1956 he was recognized as one of country music's rising stars when he joined the Louisiana Hayride and the Grand Ole Opry. Although he struggled through drug abuse, Johnny Cash found a soul mate in June Carter Cash. It was with her loving support that he was able to make it through those tough times. In 1968 he married this daughter

of acoustic guitar great Mother Maybelle Carter, a member of "the first family of country music."

Johnny Cash's deep sense of reality pours out in that gravelly voice that we all loved with songs like "Folsom Prison Blues" and the legendary "Ring of Fire" co-written with June Carter Cash. He garnered 11 Grammys and at age 71 was in no way slowing down creatively. Just a few weeks ago, he was posthumously named the top honoree at the Americana Music Awards in Nashville.

His legacy is his music, and it will surely go on with hits like "I Walk the Line"; "Big River"; and the hit he co-wrote with fellow outlaw Kris Kristofferson, "Sunday Morning Coming Down." Kris Kristofferson was right when he said Johnny Cash represented what was great about America. His profound faith, resiliency, and unwillingness to be labeled by the music industry will certainly shape the legacy of one of the greatest American artists. This American icon will be missed, but he will be remembered through his music.

I commend the gentleman from Tennessee for his leadership in offering this concurrent resolution to honor the life of Johnny Cash, and encourage my colleagues to adopt the measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this concurrent resolution to honor the life and contributions of Johnny Cash. Johnny Cash, as we all know, had a long and distinguished music career, becoming one of the most imposing and influential figures in post-World War II country music. He is one of the only artists to be enshrined in the Rock and Roll and Country Music Hall of Fame.

Cash did not sound like Nashville, nor did he sound like honky-tonk or rock and roll. He created his own unique sound, his own type and blend of music, revolutionizing the world of country music. In creating that sound, he released over 70 albums. In addition, he was one of the most successful country artists of the 1950s and 1960s, scoring well over 100 hit singles. These are amazing feats that few musicians have accomplished and even fewer are likely to repeat.

Cash's career coincided with the birth of rock and roll. Johnny Cash was not just another musician, however. Rather, his later albums would show his deep sense of history. He illustrated his understanding with a series of historical albums. These albums were focused on the downtrodden, the common man, and also the plight of Native Americans in our country.

Johnny Cash has made an indelible mark on American society. While we have lost one of our great musical artists of the last 50 years, his songs will continue to impact generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER), who has the great privilege of representing Nashville and who introduced this concurrent resolution; and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) for yielding me this time. We have a number of speakers on this side, and I would like to yield to them. I am particularly appreciative of the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) for bringing this very worthwhile concurrent resolution before us.

I was standing by my window
On a cold and cloudy day
When I saw the hearse come rollin'
For to take Johnny away.
Will the circle be unbroken?
By and by, Lord, by and by,
There's a better home a-waitin'
In the sky, Lord, in the sky.
I told the undertaker,
"Undertaker, please drive slow,
For this body you are haulin'
Lord, I hate to see him go."

Johnny Cash was a constituent of mine who lived in Hendersonville, Tennessee. I have listened to his music most of my life. He was a true legend who inspired countless musicians from all walks of life for nearly 5 decades. His music transcended traditional boundaries. He was as much an influence in rock and roll, pop, and alternative music, as he was in country music.

Johnny Cash is one of only a handful of artists to be inducted into the Country Music, Rock and Roll, and Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. The Man in Black's life began as the humble son of a sharecropper who toiled in the cotton fields of Arkansas, but he never forgot his simple beginnings even as he became one of the world's best-selling solo musicians.

Johnny Cash was just as comfortable performing in a maximum security prison as he was in receiving the 2001 National Medal of Arts award. He recorded more than 1,500 songs in his life and won 11 Grammys. Johnny Cash left this world on September 12, but his legacy lives on through his music and through those whom he has mentored in his 71 years of life. So, yes, the circle will be unbroken.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), a gentleman who has

joined us on the Committee on the Judiciary in fighting for our songwriters and also a gentleman who several years ago I had the opportunity to have as my guest at the Grand Ole Opry and to celebrate some of this wonderful country music that we are speaking of today.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, some years ago when I sat as a member of the House Committee on the Judiciary's Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property Subcommittee, we had an occasion to resolve a copyright matter, which of course brought many entertainers and performers to Capitol Hill that day. Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, and I believe his agent was with him, came into my office prior to the meeting just to say hello. I left him in my office and went down to the meeting, and when he appeared as a witness, he proudly announced that he had just left my office where he had sat in my chair.

□ 1615

Well, I thought it was I who would be proud that he sat in my chair in my office, and I told him that. He was a very good witness; I remember it very vividly. And we resolved the copyright matter favorably for all concerned. It is one of those issues where neither side was ecstatic about it, but both sides could live with it.

Subsequently, I saw a replay of a Larry King interview, and perhaps many of my colleagues saw it when he interviewed Cash. Johnny Cash told King that night on the interview that he recalled one time when he had been arrested, I believe in Georgia, and spent the night in jail. And the jailer came the next day, and Johnny Cash said that the jailer threw the money and his clothes on the counter and said, I do not want to see you here any more. He said, my wife is a Johnny Cash fan; and she cried all night when I told her that you were in my jail. Now, you get out of here.

Tough love I think is what it amounted to. I think that jailer was saying to him, now, listen, pal, you caused me a tough night last night; my wife is upset at me for having you here. Get yourself squared away. I think he did. He obviously did get himself squared away.

Many years ago, perhaps many of my colleagues were with me here in Washington when the four outlaws, as the gentlewoman from Tennessee mentioned, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings, each of whom I am sure were regarded as outlaws by the profession, but they made one tremendous quartet here that night; and it was a sold-out crowd here in Washington. I vividly remember it.

As has already been said, the gentleman from Tennessee, the gentleman from Maryland and the gentlewoman

from Tennessee have already said it, he was indeed an icon and will indeed be missed. The man in black, always standing up; always, almost without exception, standing up for the underdog, standing up for the other guy. He will indeed be missed.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, many of our colleagues wish they could be here today, particularly our friend, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS). I yield such time as he may consume to our friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who is here today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Tennessee for his introduction of this legislation. Though the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) could not be here, I, too, grew up in Arkansas; and I grew up listening to the Grand Ole Opry. I grew up as a tremendous fan of country music, but I grew up more of a fan of the gentleman that we revere and discuss today. Because of his "Folsom Prison Blues," as a matter of fact, the fact that there was a gentleman who did, in fact, represent the downtrodden but who took his music into the prisons; and as a result of the "Folsom Prison Blues," it caused people to begin to look at prisons and life in prison in a different way. As a matter of fact, right now, there are more than 2 million people who are incarcerated in this country, almost 1 million of them coming home each year.

Johnny Cash means more than just the music. He means part of a tradition in our country. I think I may not have 70 of those albums, but I must have at least 15 or 20, and whenever I want to really connect, I just sit back and listen. So Johnny has made a tremendous impact on the history and development of culture in our country.

Again, I commend the gentleman from Tennessee for the introduction of this legislation, I urge its swift passage, celebrating the life and legacy of Johnny Cash.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate the gentleman's kind remarks about the legacy of a truly great man.

It is not everyone who not only makes the front page of the hometown newspaper, the only front page I have ever seen entirely in black, but who also makes the front page of Time Magazine, People Magazine and, yes, no less than Rolling Stone itself.

There were some comments in here from some truly remarkable artists who have this to say about the passing of Johnny Cash.

Bob Dylan said, "Johnny was and is the North Star. You could guide your ship by him, and he is the greatest of the greats, then and now."

Merle Haggard said, "He was like Abraham or Moses, one of the great men who will ever grace the Earth. There will never be another man in black."

Kris Kristofferson pointed out he thought, "The power of his performance came from the tension between

this man who was deeply spiritual and also a real wild man."

The fact of Johnny Cash's passing has been noted by people around the world with great sadness, but I thought one of the best obituaries in his honor was written by a noted music author, Peter Guralnick; and it appeared in *The New York Times*. He said as follows: "Only those who were there at the beginning can remember how different he really was. The records, when they first started coming out on the Sun label in 1955, in the wake of Elvis Presley's success, sounded 'so unusual,' said the Sun session guitarist Roland Janes, 'that I never would have dreamed he could have even gotten a record played on the radio. But he set country music on its ear.'"

"It was the voice that compelled attention from the start. It was a voice that the founder of Sun Records, Sam Phillips, compared to the blues singer Howlin' Wolf's in its uniqueness, the unimpeachable integrity and originality of its sound. But it was the conviction behind the voice that really allowed Johnny Cash to create a body of work as ambitious in its scope as it was homespun in its sound."

"He carried that conviction with him from the time he first entered the tiny Sun studio in Memphis in the fall of 1954. He was just out of the Army, selling home appliances door-to-door and playing with a trio of musicians barely conversant with the instruments that they were playing; a guitarist who played one note at a time because he did not know any other way to do it, a base player who had just switched over from the guitar and had not yet learned how to tune his instrument, and a steel guitar player who would drop out of the picture altogether before they even made a record. They worked and worked until, after nearly 6 months, they finally came up with something that reflected the honesty, originality, and, above all, the spontaneity and emotional truth that both Sam Phillips and Johnny Cash particularly prized. This low-tech approach was the perfect vehicle certainly for the plain-spoken quality of Johnny Cash's message, but the method of delivery does not come close to explaining the majesty or the ambition of his art."

"To understand that, one has to factor in the power of imagination. John Cash, he was named 'Johnny' by Sam Phillips, grew up in the Federal 'colony' of Dyess, Arkansas, a social experiment with a socialist setup really, as Johnny Cash himself described it, that was done by President Franklin Roosevelt for farmers who had lost out during the Depression. One of the most vivid memories of Dyess was the day Eleanor Roosevelt came to town to decorate the library, a momentous occasion not simply for the glimpse it afforded of Mrs. Roosevelt but for the opportunity it subsequently afforded Johnny Cash to indulge in what would become a lifelong passion for reading."

He read James Fenimore Cooper and Sir Walter Scott in particular at that time and everything he could find on the American Indian, not so much to escape as to enjoy the sense of discovery. He carried this exploratory spirit with him into the world, a world in which he achieved a degree of celebrity and fame far beyond anything he might ever have imagined and long past the point that most people would gladly have settled for the simple definition of success."

"He used his success, in fact, to provide a voice for the downtrodden, the lost souls and lost causes that might otherwise have found no place in the American dream. He used his knowledge and passion for every sort of music, for the blues of Robert Johnson, the gospel music of his fellow Arkansan, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Texas folk songs collected by J. Frank Dobie, to set out in new and inventive directions of his own. When he got a network television show in the late 1960s, he not only presented such unlikely countercultural figures such as Bob Dylan and Pete Seeger to a predominantly country audience, he also regularly incorporated a vivid lesson in musical and social history in a filmed sequence called 'Ride This Train.'"

"Johnny Cash's imagination took him along widely divergent paths. There was, as he often remarked, no safe harbor for the creative soul. He was tormented by demons that he could not always control, but he never sought excuses. He simply sought the truth."

"This was what continued to give Johnny Cash's music relevance over the years. Through imagination he possessed a gift for empathetic transference; unlike many artists, he was able to take on other voices and make them his own. His music celebrated the power of the individual, but his emphasis on directness and simplicity made a complex, and sometimes contradictory, message accessible to all. His, as Sam Phillips once said, was the truest voice because it was so irremediably his own, but it was a universal voice, too, for the very way in which it incorporated a constant sense of striving and struggle, an irreducible awareness, and embrace, of the human stain."

Mr. Speaker, Johnny Cash was like no other. As I mentioned earlier, his loss was mourned around this globe. From young people who like "Nine Inch Nails" and the song "Hurt" and who thrilled to the video, perhaps one of the best ever made, to the oldest of country music fans who remember tuning in to the Grand Ole Opry in their youth. So we appreciate this moment, and I appreciate the chance to join with my Tennessee colleagues and my colleagues from Arkansas and people around this great country who are in this Congress and who have come up to me in the last couple of weeks to honor the memory of the great Johnny Cash."

Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) for his efforts, and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) for his efforts in recognizing his constituent."

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) spoke a little bit about Johnny Cash's ambitions for his music, and I think that we can see that, because we have people all across the spectrum, those who are young and old, who appreciate his music, and who learned from what he does."

I think it is important to note, too, that it was very important to Johnny Cash that he mentor others; and that was not lost on his children and his grandchildren and the talents that they possess and the talents that they are bringing forward in the music industry today."

We appreciate so much this body joining together to honor not only Johnny Cash's life and the impact that he had on the music industry but the legacy."

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Johnny Cash, one of our most well known singer/songwriters who was born in a little-known town in my district named Kingsland."

Kingsland, Arkansas is a little town of 449 residents that lies just west of the Mississippi Delta, the fertile ground out of which grows our nation's finest food and fiber. Out of this land also grows much hardship—it is sparsely populated by farmers whose fortune is subject to the whims of nature. It gave birth to the blues, and to Johnny Cash."

Cash was born in the wake of the Great Depression, the fourth of five children in a cotton farming family. He picked cotton with his hands, sang hymns at the Central Baptist Church, and sought higher ground at Pine Bluff when the great flood of 1937 sent the Mississippi's waters spilling into his family's cotton fields in Dyess, covering them with the black Mississippi mud that the next year produced the best cotton crop they'd ever seen—hardship and glory wrapped up in a busted levee that soaked his livelihood and sealed his fate as the champion of the downtrodden."

Johnny Cash's music transcended genres and generations to touch us all with stories of struggle—sometimes ending in triumph, but usually ending in trouble. His adventurous ballads and lamenting dirges could bring us down to the darkest depths of life at the same time his spirituals lifted us up to heaven."

He was bold. He was bad. He was brave. He made his peace with man and with God through his songs. He sang of outlaws and heroes, cowboys and killers, soldiers and lovers, and even a boy named Sue. He was country, folk, and rock and roll. Johnny Cash didn't sing to simply earn a living, he sang because he had much to tell."

From his life we learn to face adversity with wit and integrity, to fight back when pushed down, to hold duty and honor sacred, and to love and forgive. We lost one of our national treasures this month, but the legacy and the legend of the Man in Black will live on in the gift he gave us all."

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHROCK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 282, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DECLARING EMPORIA, KANSAS, AS THE FOUNDING CITY OF VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 159) declaring Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and recognizing the contributions of Alvin J. King and Representative Ed Rees to the enactment into law of the observance of Veterans Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 159

Whereas in 1953, Alvin J. King of Emporia, Kansas, proposed that Armistice Day be changed to Veterans Day to recognize and honor all veterans from all wars and conflicts;

Whereas in 1953, Veterans Day was first organized and celebrated in Emporia, Kansas;

Whereas although Alvin King was only 15 years old when the United States went to war in 1917 and never served in the Armed Forces, he had a deep respect for veterans;

Whereas Alvin King's stepson, John Cooper, whom he had raised, was killed in action in Belgium during World War II while serving with Rifle Company B, 137th Infantry Regiment;

Whereas after World War II, Alvin King developed friendships with the surviving members of Rifle Company B, 137th Infantry Regiment;

Whereas in the early 1950s, Alvin King suggested either creating a special day to honor all veterans or adapting Armistice Day so that it was dedicated to all veterans since, at that time, Armistice Day honored the veterans of World War I;

Whereas by 1953, the community of Emporia, Kansas, had raised enough money to send Alvin King and his wife, Gertrude, to Washington, D.C. to garner support for an official veterans day;

Whereas Alvin King had a friend and supporter in Representative Ed Rees of Emporia, Kansas, who was strongly in favor of King's idea and said "it would give the holiday a new meaning and more widespread patriotic observance";

Whereas on June 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was raised in Kansas, signed into law the Act proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day (Public Law 380 of the 83rd Congress);

Whereas on October 8, 1954, President Eisenhower issued a presidential proclamation concerning Veterans Day in 1954 in which he stated, "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain"; and

Whereas the first nationwide observance of Veterans Day was on November 11, 1954: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress hereby—

(1) encourages Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans on Veterans Day by treating that day as a special day of remembrance;

(2) declares Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of Veterans Day;

(3) recognizes Alvin J. King, of Emporia, Kansas, as the founder of Veterans Day; and

(4) recognizes that Representative Ed Rees, of Emporia, Kansas, was instrumental in the efforts to enact into law the observance of Veterans Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

□ 1630

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in support of House Concurrent Resolution 159, a bill that I introduced to encourage Americans to honor the duty and sacrifices of the members of our Armed Services by proclaiming Veterans Day as a special day of national remembrance.

In addition, this resolution recognizes the community of Emporia, Kansas for its efforts to pay tribute to our Nation's veterans and to declare Emporia, Kansas as the originating city of Veterans Day.

The resolution also recognizes the contributions of two native Kansans, Mr. Alvin J. King and the Honorable Edward J. Rees for the role each played in creating the legislation that established the national observance of Veterans Day on November 11 of each year.

Our country has had many wars in its history and generations of American service-men and -women have defended America's freedom and liberty. We are a free people today because of our Founders' principles and the willingness of our service-men and -women to defend those principles with their lives. We should be ever thankful that individuals of each generation have been willing to serve America, that they have been willing risk everything, to allow their children and grandchildren the opportunity to live in freedom.

Mr. Alvin J. King's abiding respect for veterans is attributed to the loss of his nephew, John Cooper, who was killed in action in Belgium during World War II. John Cooper was a member of Rifle Company B, 137th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army. After his nephew's death, Mr. KING remain devoted to the war effort at home and served as the Veterans Security Chairman for the American War Dads.

In 1953, Mr. King proposed that Armistice Day, a national observance since

1938, be changed to Veterans Day in order to recognize and honor all veterans from all wars and all conflicts. At that time, Armistice Day existed only to honor veterans of World War I. The community of Emporia, Kansas, under the leadership of Mr. King celebrated its first "All Veterans Day" on November 11, 1953.

Through the financial support of the Emporia community, Mr. King and his wife, Gertrude, took the idea of an official Veterans Day to Washington, D.C. to Representative Edward H. Rees, another Emporia resident, who served Kansas in the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 years. The Congressman was strongly in favor of King's idea and said, "It would give the holiday a new meaning and provide widespread patriotic observance."

Following the inaugural "All Veterans Day" celebration in Emporia, Representative Rees introduced H.R. 7786, to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day and to establish its observance on November 11 of each year. The House and Senate both approved this legislation, and with the signature of another Kansan, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the bill became law on June 1, 1954.

Before the Nation's first celebration of Veterans Day on November 11, 1954, President Eisenhower issued the following proclamation: "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that all their efforts shall not have been in vain."

With the enactment and President Eisenhower's signature on H.R. 7786, Mr. King's dream to honor veterans of all conflicts was fulfilled. Every year since 1953, Emporia has honored our country's veterans, most recently with a week-long series of events that involves the entire community. Veterans Day is not just another holiday, not just a day off from work in Emporia, Kansas. The citizens of Emporia take very seriously their responsibility to honor our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor House Concurrent Resolution 159, and I want to thank my colleagues on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for their support. I ask my colleagues and my fellow Americans to join me on Veterans Day this year and every other day in recognizing the contributions and sacrifices that our Nation's veterans have made to protect this Nation and to defend our way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 159 and thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) for bringing this matter for consideration. All of us on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs appreciate